

NEW SECTION SHOW HOMES ARMANI CASA FOR LODHA

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The exposed plywood structure skillfully made on location branches out over the dining area, reaching across and cleverly concealing the ducted ceiling, while simple furniture and accessories play a largely functional role

A SHADY PROPOSITION

With an overarching timber trunk as piece de resistance, Pan Asian restaurant Trikaya's Mumbai debut is an earthy, crafty, whimsical concoction



Vivek Popli and Sumesh Menon of V & S Associates couldn't have asked for more. A completely free rein. Let loose on a dark, dingy shell, they "ripped" what used to be a lounge to its bare essentials and embarked on the fabrication of Trikaya's first Mumbai outing, a Pan Asian restaurant that originally launched in Pune.

A larger than life, exposed veneer plywood tree made on location stands majestically in the centre, craftily disguising a massive column and reaching across the surrounding ducted ceiling like an "enveloping hug". A sketch of the concept at a preliminary meeting was enough to get the ball rolling. All around, the decor feeds this overarching sculpture – from the 1,400 handcrafted cutwork trellis' that are a repeated design element, unfinished die cast concrete walls and contoured bison backrests embedded with metal strips, to imported pendant lamps lined with onion skin – making raw a dominant part of the Versova eatery's appeal. A paved bar plays host to whimsical swivel stools custom made by the duo. Across, bits of volcanic stone from Gujarat held together by 80 litres of resin make for a dramatic communal counter and glass bottles hand blown in Faridabad gently infuse colour.

But step outside and themed quirk usurps: Cement boards are inspired by cheese, the flooring is a limestone jigsaw puzzle and the eccentrically arresting canopy above is a tensile sail shade installation by Nikhil Gandhi. ♦ **Urvashi Keswani**

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NEW EATERY'S APPEAL



From Top Perforated cement boards, sail shades and squiggle backrests ensure the outdoor section is predominantly quirky and bears no resemblance to the decor within; Hand blown glass bottles add a hint of colour; The bar is an inviting mix of raw concrete walls, a delicately crafted trellis apron and surprisingly comfortable swivel stools. Photographs courtesy Pawan Manglani



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